

RESOLUTION
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS OF NEW MEXICO
(MRGCOG R-98-5)

**ESTABLISHING A MIDDLE RIO GRANDE WATER RESOURCES BOARD AND
PROVIDING AUTHORIZATION AND GUIDANCE TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TO INITIATE A REGIONAL WATER PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments (MRGCOG) has determined that the MRGCOG should perform a central role in the formation of a regional water planning process in the Middle Rio Grande Basin; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) previously designated the MRGCOG as the regional water planning agency for the Middle Rio Grande area; and

WHEREAS, the MRGCOG created the Regional Water Resources Board (RWRB) on October 6, 1988 to serve as an advisory body to the MRGCOG Board of Directors on regional water resource issues; and

WHEREAS, a number of public discussions have resulted in recommendations to create an organizational structure and dedicate resources for efforts to undertake a regional water planning process, including:

1) participants in the October 9, 1997 Board Retreat who recommended that MRGCOG take a lead role in preparing a regional water plan;

2) the Programmatic Audit of the MRGCOG (Cogan Report, 1995) recommended reestablishing a MRGCOG role in regional water planning and coordination;

3) the New Mexico First Town Hall on Land and Water Resources Consensus Report (June, 1997) recommended a comprehensive process of strategic planning at the regional, state, tribal and local level with regard to broad-based water and land use;

4) the Focus 2050 Regional Plan requires water considerations in developing a preferred land use scenario, as reinforced in the Vision Statement and Goals adopted by the MRGCOG Board of Directors; and

5) the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly launched in August, 1997, a grassroots effort from the civic and technical sectors, to move forward on regional water planning; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Board of MRGCOG provided general guidance to staff to expand regional water planning in the MRGCOG Work Program; and

WHEREAS, the MRGCOG is in a key position as the association of local governments to engage in regional water planning as a basic program activity that can be integrated with regional land use and transportation programs, and could be structured in terms of policy development and technical coordination to be similar to the transportation planning process for the Region; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary at this time to move forward in the development of a regional water resources planning process as an integral part of the MRGCOG Work Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments that the Regional Water Resources Board (RWRB) is hereby dissolved to allow for the establishment of a new board to be known as the Middle Rio Grande Water Resources Board which shall be comprised of public and tribal water rights holders within the designated Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Region (see boundary map in Exhibit I). The Middle Rio Grande Water Resources Board shall be responsible for preparing, coordinating, and adopting a regional water plan in the defined planning area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments that the Executive Director is authorized to develop a water planning program for the Middle Rio Grande region including initial activities of:

1) executing any necessary and appropriate agreements working with the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly, and making arrangements and agreements with local governments to establish a budget and secure funding to support the effort subject to MRGCOG Executive Board approval.

2) informing other groups of the intent of the MRGCOG to establish an enhanced regional water planning function;

3) establish a mechanism for involving private water rights holder in the planning process;

4) working with local entities named to establish the Middle Rio Grande Water Resources Board and associated technical committees; and

5) developing a water planning work program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that continuation of this program beyond January 30, 2004 shall require reauthorization by the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments Board of Directors.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED THIS 11 th day of June 1998 by the Board of Directors of the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments of New Mexico.

/s/ Barbara J. Seward

Barbara J. Seward, Chair
MRGCOG Board of Directors

ATTEST:

/s/ Dennis R. Foltz

Dennis R. Foltz
Executive Director/Secretary